



Critical Days of Summer



Personal Watercraft



**Brought to you by:
The Naval Safety Center**





Statistics



- ★ Since October 1, 2000, 6 Sailors and Marines have died in mishaps involving personal watercraft (jet skis) -- 4 Sailors and 2 Marines.



Safety Tips



- ★ Know the U.S. Coast Guard's Rules of the Road. Check <http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/courses.htm>
- ★ Ensure all occupants have donned a life jacket.
- ★ Ensure proper equipment aboard should you experience a break down or a fire such as fire extinguisher, whistle, tow rope, reflective blanket, select tools, container of drinking water, cell phone (optional).
- ★ Avoid shallow water (less than 2-3 feet deep).
- ★ Beware of floating debris.
- ★ Do not overload watercraft. Know your PWC's limitations and restrictions.



Suggested Best Practices



★ Insist that passengers wear lifejackets.

- An person can become a projectile during an accident, causing severe injury or death from drowning.



★ Avoid high speeds in congested areas.

- Keep your head on swivel at all times.
- Be alert.



★ Do not operate a PWC during or after consumption of alcohol.



Lessons Learned



- ★ ENS WAS RIDING JET SKI WHEN HE SLAMMED INTO A CONCRETE PILING. WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT THE SCENE. CAUSE OF DEATH WAS HEAD TRAUMA.

Lesson Learned: MAINTAIN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND AVOID EXCESSIVE SPEED. CURRENTLY, NO REGULATION EXISTS REQUIRING PEOPLE OPERATING PWC'S TO WEAR A HELMET.



- ★ CORPORAL'S JET SKI STRUCK BY JET SKI OPERATED BY ANOTHER CPL, CPL FELL OFF AND WAS RUN OVER BY THE OTHER JET SKI, SUFFERING FATAL INJURIES.

Lesson Learned: IMPROPER HANDLING AND OPERATING OF HIGH SPEED PWC'S CAN INFLICT FATAL OR SERIOUS INJURY.





Myth Busters



★ Myth: I don't have to wear my lifejacket because I'm always safe. I've never been in an accident with my PWC and I'm sure I never will.



★ BUSTED: You may be safe but it's the other guy you have to watch out for. Hundred of accidents occur on waterways throughout the United States during the summer and many of the victims are without lifejackets. Don't be a fool.





Myth Busters



- ★ Myth: There's no need to have a fire extinguisher aboard nor is there a reason to ensure the fire extinguisher even works because the chances of having a fire aboard a PWC are next to nil.
- ★ BUSTED: Anyone who thinks fire extinguishers are not a critical part of the safety equipment carried aboard a PWC shouldn't even be given the opportunity to operate one. Something weighing 500-800 pounds, powered by a 120-175 hp motor, spells performance that can easily equate to disaster.



*Work, Play, Live ...
Safely!*



Naval Safety Center
www.safetycenter.navy.mil

